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Florida this year, when he succumbed to an attack of pneumonia in New York.

Mr. Hall's interest in geography was a part of his life. He studied systematically the records of the great discoveries in the past, and he followed with close attention the progress of exploration in Africa and Asia and in the Arctic. He wrote on these subjects for the daily press and in the *BULLETIN* with fulness of knowledge and critical good sense. His longest contribution, and almost the only one to which his name is attached, is the paper on Gerard Mercator, printed in 1878.

In private, as in public, Mr. Hall was a man wholly without pretension, firm in his convictions and in his sense of duty, outspoken and loyal and fair-minded.

BARON VON RICHTHOFEN.

A telegram from Berlin has announced the death of Baron Ferdinand von Richthofen at his residence in that city on the 7th of October.

This distinguished geographer and geologist was born at Karlsruhe, in Silesia, in 1833. He studied at Breslau and in Berlin, and accompanied Count von Eulenburg on the Prussian Expedition to Eastern Asia in 1859. For the next twelve years von Richthofen travelled and studied in China and Indo-China, the Indian Archipelago, and Japan.

He returned to Germany in 1872, and has since been identified with the *Gesellschaft für Erdkunde* in Berlin, as Member of the Council, Vice-President, and President. He filled the Chair of Geography, successively, in the Universities of Bonn, of Leipzig, and of Berlin, and in 1902 he became Director of the *Institut für Meereskunde*.

In 1903 he was made Rector of the University of Berlin.

Baron von Richthofen is an acknowledged authority in geography and geology. Among his publications are *The Comstock Lode*; his *Letters on the Chinese Provinces*, addressed to the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce; his *Guide for Explorers*; and his magnificent work on China.

WILLIAM THOMAS BLANFORD.

This geographer, geologist, and naturalist died in England on June 23. For nearly a half century his name was intimately connected with scientific progress in India. His brother Henry, eminent in the same lines of work, died in 1893. William Blanford became

connected with the Geological Survey of India in 1855, and was the first to comprehend and to explain the geological structure of the peninsula. On two occasions he was detached from the Survey: when he went as geologist with the Abyssinian Expedition in 1867, and with the Boundary Commission to Persia in 1872. His scientific interests also extended to natural history. He assiduously collected in its various branches, and his mind was a storehouse of facts relating to the distribution and habits of the Indian fauna. His most important work was "The Manual of the Geology of India," the larger part of which was written by him. This work has been kept up to date, and is the standard authority. After his retirement from the geological field, he edited the comprehensive account of the fauna of British India, published by the Indian Government, and contributed to it the volume on mammalia and two volumes on birds.

CAPTAIN JOSEPH WIGGINS.

This adventurous navigator died on September 13th, in England, aged seventy-four years. He rediscovered, about thirty years ago, an old ocean highway within the Arctic Circle. The problem he set himself to solve was that of navigating the Kara Sea, between Novaya Zemlia and the mainland of Siberia during the two or three summer months when it is comparatively free from ice. This route was navigated over 200 years ago, but had been lost until Captain Wiggins once more found it in 1874. In 1878 he took a steamer through the Kara Sea up the Yenisei River, and discharged her cargo at various points along the river for 1,000 miles from its mouth. These expeditions were successfully repeated in the following years. No fewer than twenty-four expeditions with thirty-seven vessels passed safely through the Kara Sea without the loss of a single ship, until the unfortunate wreck of the steamer *Stjernem*, which Captain Wiggins maintained was an accident that might have happened anywhere. This freighting business proved remunerative; but the Kara Sea route, in recent years, has been neglected in favour of the Siberian railroad and other improved facilities for land transportation. Public interest in the route was revived some months ago by the decision of the Russian Government to convey rails and railroad material through the Kara Sea and up the Yenisei.

HERMANN VON WISSMANN.

This distinguished African explorer died on June 16th at his home near Liezen, in Styria, from the results of an accident while